

9 April 1974

HW:

Yr 4/2/74 memo about your TV-Craig difficulties: I don't feel either persuaded or justified in asking our friends here about this, although that state of mind could change despite the difficulty of acting as middle man in a technical situation I know little about. Too much room for misunderstanding.

In the meantime, I cannot imagine a more unprofitable place for a bug. The only type I've ever heard of that could work in such a situation would be a miniature FM pickup and transmitter and these should work better and be much easier to install ~~than~~ ~~inside~~ ~~the~~ ~~TV~~ ~~set~~ ~~because~~ ~~they~~ ~~require~~ ~~no~~ ~~much~~ ~~power~~ ~~source~~ ~~as~~ ~~your~~ ~~TV~~ ~~uses~~ ~~almost~~ ~~anywhere~~ ~~else~~ ~~than~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~TV~~. In any case, unless some sort of short circuit was involved, I don't see how it could affect the Craig.

From what you say it sounds like you've got the Craig power cord plugged into the same set of outlets as the TV. Since you also say you run the Craig only with the power cord, it is possible that the TV, when first turned on, may exert a surge of demand on the power source that temporarily robs the Craig of enough power to keep it audible. I seem to remember that some tube TV sets came with rather formidable transformers to boost their voltage up to something like 750 volts from the 115 provided by a house circuit. You say that neither the hifi set nor the other TV affects the Craig this way, so maybe your model of Zenith TV has this feature.

I don't know whether it makes any difference whether you are recording on the Craig from the TV via the mike or a patch cord, nor whether this blackout happens while you're playing the radio side of the Craig rather than recording with it, but there could be a factor involved here which might become clearer and might be worth checking out, although I doubt it.

The more I think about this, the more I suspect your TV's warm-up demand may drain the power line momentarily by reducing the voltage that gets through to the Craig (or maybe it would be the amperage, I don't know). In any case you could test this in two ways: 1. With an extension cord, plug the Craig in somewhere else in the house circuit where you are sure the outlet is on a different leg from where the TV is plugged in, that is, on a leg that goes to a different fuze ~~or~~ in your fuze ~~box~~ box or to a different throw-switch in your circuit breaker box if you have one. 2. Put the Craig on batteries, still near the TV, and see if you get the fadeout.

I don't see how AFC could have anything to do with this, nor the proximity of the two aeriels.

In any case, from what little I know, this is about the last place I'd expect to find a bug of the capacity needed for your location.

jdw